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NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M1304

**Records Created by Bureau of
Indian Affairs Field Agencies
Having Jurisdiction Over
the Pueblo Indians
1874-1900**

**Records of the Bureau of Indian
Affairs, Record Group 75**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND BOARD
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Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Record Group 75

RECORDS CREATED BY BUREAU
OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FIELD AGENCIES HAVING
JURISDICTION OVER THE PUEBLO INDIANS
1874-1900

On the 32 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 37 volumes and 26 cubic feet of unbound records created by Bureau of Indian Affairs Field agencies having jurisdiction over the Pueblo Indians between 1874 and 1900. These records are part of the holdings in the National Archives of the United States designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group (RG) 75, and are in the custody of the Archives Branch, Denver Federal Archives and Records Center.

Background

From 1789 to 1824 Indian affairs were administered under the direct supervision of the Secretary of War. An order of Secretary of War John C. Calhoun on March 11, 1824, established the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) within the War Department. In 1849 the Bureau was transferred to the new Department of the Interior, where it has since remained.

Until 1874 the responsibility for the Indians in a certain area, usually a Territory, was vested in a Superintendent of Indian Affairs. The New Mexico Superintendency was established with the organization of New Mexico Territory on September 9, 1850. Territorial governors served as ex officio superintendents in New Mexico until 1857, when separate officials were appointed.

During the 19th century the Indian Agent assigned to a specific agency, rather than the Superintendent, was normally the Federal Government's primary contact with a tribe. The Agent was responsible for issuing supplies, leasing reservation land, supervising the deposit of Indian moneys, providing adequate medical care, establishing schools for the education of the children, developing the agricultural resources of the reservation, and supervising the overall administration of the agency.

In 1851 an act of Congress (9 Stat. 587) authorized the appointment of four Indian agents to serve under the Superintendent in New Mexico. At first the agents did not have specific assignments but were used wherever needed. Eventually agencies were established and agents were assigned to administer them. The New Mexico Superintendency was abolished in 1874, and thereafter the agents in New Mexico reported directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington.

The Pueblo Agency was established by the BIA in 1854, with jurisdiction over 19 Pueblo villages in New Mexico Territory: Acoma, C  chiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara,

Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia, and Zuni. These Pueblo Indians were of the same general culture, yet were divided into four or five different language groups. Moreover, each village maintained its own government, its own irrigation system, and a closely integrated community life. The United States had acquired sovereignty over the Pueblo Indians as a result of the Mexican War, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 bound the United States to respect the titles to lands granted to them by Spain and Mexico.

The Pueblo Agency was responsible for the Pueblo Indians above described throughout the entire period of its existence. During the period in which these records were created, the Pueblo Agency also became responsible for the Jicarilla Apache, one result of the then current BIA policy of reducing the number of Indian agencies and removing the Indians to a few reservations.

As this latter period opened, the Jicarilla Apache and certain bands of Utes roamed northern New Mexico, reporting to and receiving provisions from the two Indian agencies in that area, the Cimarron and the Abiquiu. By the end of 1878, the Utes had removed themselves to the Ute reservation in Colorado, and the Cimarron Agency, which had been subordinated to the Pueblo Agency in 1876, was discontinued. By mid-1883, the Jicarilla had been removed to the Mescalero Apache reservation in south-central New Mexico, and the Abiquiu Agency, which had been subordinated to the Pueblo Agency in 1878, was consolidated with the Mescalero Agency to form the Mescalero and Jicarilla Agency at South Fork. During the years the Pueblo Agency was responsible for affairs at the Cimarron and Abiquiu Agencies, day-to-day matters were handled by an official called the farmer in charge, who reported directly to the Pueblo Agent in Santa Fe.

The move of the Jicarilla to the Mescalero reservation proved an unhappy one, and in 1886-87 the Jicarilla were returned to a new reservation in the north. A Jicarilla Subagency was established, but operated within the jurisdiction of the Southern Ute Agency in Colorado. In 1891, after a lapse of eight years, the Jicarilla Apache became the permanent responsibility of the Pueblo Agent; the Jicarilla Subagency was consolidated with the Pueblo Agency to form the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency. Although the agency headquarters was Santa Fe, the Subagency continued to operate at Dulce.

In the ensuing decade BIA policy became critical of the rate of its own progress toward converting Indians to the white man's way of life, taking the view that agents and reservations created dependents rather than self-reliant individuals. One consequence of the new policy was the abolition of the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency in 1901. Responsibility for the Pueblo Indians was at that time divided between the superintendents

of the Albuquerque and Santa Fe Indian Schools. The Jicarilla subagency was elevated to an agency; there was no school upon which to confer responsibility.

Records Description

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are those described in series entries 1 through 14, *Preliminary Inventory of Pueblo Records Created by Field Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs* (PI 1192). These records were created or accumulated between 1874 and 1900 by the Pueblo Agency and its successor, the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency. Among them are many records created by agencies/subagencies over which these primary agencies had jurisdiction during the period, namely, the Cimarron, Abiquiu, and Jicarilla. Supervision over these subordinate agencies caused little change in the recordkeeping practices established by the original Pueblo Agency; existing file series were continued and a few new series were begun in order to document Jicarilla-related activities.

The first eight series filmed are copies of letters sent by officials at the Indian agency in Santa Fe. These letters were sent primarily to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, other Indian agents and agency employees, Territorial officials, individual Indians, military personnel, and private individuals. Most of the letters were signed by the Indian Agent and concern personnel, schools, Pueblo lands, and the welfare of individual Indians.

The remaining six series microfilmed are either letters received or registers of letters received by the same Santa Fe agency. Most of the letters were from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, school employees, governors of pueblos, Territorial officials, and private individuals. The letters relate to administration of the agency, budget and accounts, acquisition of supplies, day school activities, and Indian health.

The records are filmed in the order in which they are described in the preliminary inventory, with the one exception of series entry 4, "Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning the Abiquiu Agency," which is filmed after entry 6, so that entries 3, 5, and 6 could be reproduced on the same roll. As mentioned, letters sent are microfilmed first, followed by letters or registers of letters received. Thereunder, the records are arranged primarily in chronological order. All records have been filmed to produce the best possible reproduction, although in some cases, such as the letterpress copies of letters sent, fading and physical deterioration have hampered satisfactory reproduction.

Press Copies of Letters Sent

Press Copies of Miscellaneous Letters Sent. October 1891-September 1900. 18 Volumes.

Arranged chronologically by date sent. Except for the last volume, all volumes are indexed alphabetically by name of addressee.

This series consists of letters sent by the Indian Agent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, governors of pueblos, day school teachers, military officials, individual Indians, and private citizens. The letters concern fiscal expenditures, acquisition of supplies, personnel matters, day school activities, and internal Pueblo affairs.

This series is a continuation of 19 volumes of letters sent that have been reproduced as NARS Microfilm Publication M941, *Miscellaneous Letters Sent by the Pueblo Indian Agency, 1874-1891*

Press Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. May 1897-March 1899. 2 volumes.

Arranged chronologically by date sent. Indexed alphabetically by subject.

These letters were sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and primarily concern the general administration of the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency. The letters contain information on supplies, personnel, budget reports, intrusions into Pueblo lands, alleged Indian depredations, and interactions between whites and Indians. Issues concerning individual Indians include tribal government activities, water rights, and censuses conducted.

Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning the Cimarron Agency. October 1876-November 1879. 1 volume.

Arranged chronologically by date sent. Indexed alphabetically by name of addressee.

These letters were sent by the Pueblo Indian Agent primarily to the farmers in charge of the Cimarron Agency. The letters relate principally to administration, personnel, and the purchase and transportation of supplies. Also included is a small volume of letters sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, military officers, and merchants. These letters also concern the general administration of the agency.

Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning the Jicarilla Agency. July 1882-April 1883. 1 volume.

Arranged chronologically by date sent. Indexed alphabetically by name of addressee.

These letters were sent from Indian Agent Benjamin J. Thomas primarily to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the farmers in charge of the Jicarilla Agency. Most of the letters relate to the acquisition of supplies, budget requests, and general administrative policies. A small number of letters concern the activities of San Pablo, who was chief of 400 Jicarillas moved from the Cimarron Agency to the Abiquiu Agency in 1878. The letters cite San Pablo's absences from the reservation and the calvary's attempts to return him and his tribesmen to the reservation. Included in these letters is correspondence to military officers and Territorial officials.

Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning the Tenth Decennial Census. November 1880-July 1881. 1 volume.

Arranged chronologically by date sent. Indexed alphabetically by name of addressee.

This small group of letters concerns the procedures used to conduct the 1880 Federal population census of Pueblo Indians residing in several enumeration districts. The letters were sent to enumerators, day school employees, governors of pueblos, and other Federal officials involved in taking the census. The letters relate to the appointment of enumerators, estimate of funds, materials needed, and the problems encountered in taking the census, including the unwillingness of some Indians to participate. Many of the letters concern the enumeration of students at the day schools. Although a few letters aggregate population figures for individual pueblos, there are no lists of individual Indians.

Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning the Abiquiu Agency. September 1878-September 1880. 4 inches.

Arranged chronologically by date sent. Indexed alphabetically by name of addressee.

This series consists of a small volume of letters sent by the Pueblo Indian Agent, Benjamin J. Thomas, concerning the Abiquiu Agency. Most of the letters were sent to the farmer in charge or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. They concern the issuance of supplies to the Indians, fiscal accounts, personnel, and, to a lesser extent, individual Indian matters.

Press Copies of Letters Sent to the Jicarilla Subagency. July 1898-August 1900. 2 volumes.

Arranged chronologically by date sent.

These letters were sent by the Indian Agent in Santa Fe to officials at the Jicarilla Subagency at Dulce. Although the Jicarilla Subagency was consolidated with the Pueblo Agency in 1891 to form the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency, a subagency continued to operate at Dulce. Most of the letters relate to general administrative and supply matters; however, some letters contain information on missionary activities, Indian private land claims, and problems encountered by individual Indians. Also included are several letters concerning the establishment of a new day school at San Ildefonso.

Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning Day Schools. July 1898-August 1900. 8 volumes.

Arranged chronologically by date sent. Each volume contains an index of names of addressees and subjects.

These letters were sent primarily to day school officials, although a small volume was sent to other government officials, governors of pueblos, merchants, and private individuals. The letters concern the administration of the day schools, including the acquisition of supplies, budget requests, accounts, and personnel matters. Other letters relate to the general activities of the schools, including the establishment of a school lunch program and an outbreak of smallpox among students in 1898.

Letters Received

Registers of Letters and Records Received. 1874-83. 4 volumes.

Arranged chronologically by date received.

This series consists of four volumes of registers of letters received at the Pueblo Agency. The letters were sent from Federal officials in Washington, D.C., officials of the Cimarron and Abiquiu Agencies, day school employees, and, to a lesser extent, private individuals. Each volume lists the name of the writer, the date the letter was written and the date it was received at the agency, and a summary of the letter's content. Included in the first volume is a list of persons granted licenses to trade with the Pueblo Indians between 1874 and 1879. The registers are indexes to the "Letters Received" described in the next series.

Letters Received. 1876-86. 3 feet.

Arranged in the following subseries and thereunder chronologically by date received: Federal offices in Washington, D.C., 1876-86; miscellaneous, 1879-82; school employees, 1876-85; Cimarron Agency, 1876-78; and Abiquiu Agency, 1878-82.

These letters were received by officials at the Pueblo Agency and relate primarily to the general administration of Indian affairs. The letters concern directives issued, fiscal matters, annual budgets, statistical reports, the acquisition of supplies, and agency personnel. Other letters, especially those received from officials at the Cimarron and Abiquiu agencies, give information on the condition and welfare of the Indians. This includes material on educational policies and activities; health programs and concerns; delegations of Indians visiting Washington, D.C.; and problems involving Pueblo lands and depredations. Also found in this series are a few miscellaneous reports of individual day schools.

Register of Letters and Records Received. 1890-91. 1 volume.

Arranged and numbered in chronological order. Indexed by subject or name of writer.

This volume is a register of letters and records received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, other Federal officials, day school employees, and private individuals. Information given includes the date of the letter and the date received, name of writer, subject content, and, if applicable, the number of enclosures. Most of the letters registered in this volume are described in the next series, "Letters Received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs."

Letters Received From the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. 1884-1900. 6 feet.

Arranged chronologically by date received. For the years 1890, 1896, and 1897, very few letters exist.

This series consists of letters sent by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., to the Indian Agent at Santa Fe. The letters concern finance, supplies, personnel, accounts, and school appropriations. Other letters relate to more specific matters, including the granting of licenses to trade, the issuance of patents for Indian lands, the surveys of boundaries of different pueblos, and the development of more modern farming techniques. There are also several letters discussing the problems of absentee students, the illegal selling and trading of whiskey, the killing of cattle by individual Indians, and contested land claims.

Also included is a small volume of circulars, telegrams, semi-monthly school reports, and statements of accounting differences.

Register of Letters Received. April-October 1890; July-August 1891. 1 volume.

Arranged chronologically by date received.

Each entry in this volume lists the date the letter was received, the name of the writer, and a brief summary of the letter's content. Most of the letters registered are from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but some are from other government officials and private individuals. The letters registered in this volume have not been located.

Letters Received and Other Records. 1894-1900. 11 feet.

Arranged chronologically by year received and thereunder by three subseries: individual pueblo and day school affairs, Jicarilla Subagency affairs, and miscellaneous records.

These letters and records relate to day school activities, Indian health services, individual accounts, and general administrative policies. A large number of the letters are from day school teachers, governors of pueblos, military officers, Territorial officials, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The records contain information on births, deaths, and illnesses reported among various pueblos; probate and district court cases involving Indians; intrusions on Pueblo lands; missionary activities; and trading agreements. There are also a few miscellaneous copies of field matron's reports, day school monthly reports, and quarterly school reports. Intermingled are statistical reports, partial tribal censuses, and records relating to finance and supply.

Related Records

Related BIA records created under the jurisdiction of the Pueblo Agency and now in custody of the Denver Archives Branch include fiscal and supply records, 1874-1900; copies of monthly and annual narrative reports, 1875-85; letters sent and received by the Cimarron and Abiquiu Agencies, 1869-1883; and statements of receipts and disbursements of the Cimarron and Abiquiu Agencies, 1875-1900. As mentioned, series entry 1 of this publication is a continuation of the National Archives Microfilm Publication M941, *Miscellaneous Letters Sent by the Pueblo Agency, 1874-91*.

Other related records held in the Denver Archives Branch include Indian land claims and other Indian-related case files created by the U.S. District Courts for New Mexico, 1850-1953, found in Record Group 21, Records of U.S. District Courts; and survey plats of Indian lands and correspondence and other records related to those surveys that were created by the Surveyor General of New Mexico, 1855-90, found in Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management.

Microfilm publications of related records in the same record group (RG 75) held by the National Archives, Washington, D.C., include: *Register of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1880* (M18); *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1882* (M234); *Letters sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1882* (M21); *Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1882-1885* (M348); *Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904* (M574); and *Records of the New Mexico Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1849-1880* (T21). A microfilm publication of related records in Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Record Group 48, is *Interior Department Territorial Papers: New Mexico, 1851-1914* (M364).

Eileen Bolger wrote this introduction and arranged the records for filming. Kathleen Quigley was the editor.

Agents, Pueblo Indian Agency, 1854-91

Abraham G. Mayers	1854-57
Samuel M. Yost	1857-59
John T. Russell	1859-61
Ramon Luna	1861-65
Toribio Romero	1865-66
John D. Henderson	1866-68
Nicholas Quintana	1868-69
Lt. Charles Cooper	1869
Lt. George E. Ford	1869-70
Lt. J. A. Manley	1870-71
William F. N. Arny	1871-72
John O. Cole	1872-73
Edwin C. Lewis	1873-74
Benjamin M. Thomas	1874-83
Pedro Sanchez	1883-85
Dolores Romero	1885-86
M. C. Williams	1886-89
W. P. McClure	1889
Frank D. Lewis, U.S. special Indian agent in charge	1889
Jose Segura	1890-91
John H. Robertson	1891

Agents, Pueblo and Jicarilla Indian Agency, 1891-1900

John H. Robertson	1891-93
Capt. John L. Bullis, acting agent	1893-97
Capt. C. E. Nordstrom	1897-98
S. L. Taggart, U. S. special Indian agent	1898
Charles L. Cooper, acting agent	1898
N. S. Walpole	1898-1900

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2	Do., vols. 22-23	Apr. 1893-July 1894
3	Do., vols., 24-25	July 1894-Aug. 1895
4	Do., vols., 26-27	Aug. 1895-Sept. 1896
5	Do., vols., 28-29	Sept. 1896-Oct. 1897
6	Do., vols., 30-31	Nov. 1897-July 1898
7	Do., vols., 32-33	July 1898-May 1899
8	Do., vols., 34-35	May 1899-Jan. 1900
9	Do., vols., 36-37	Jan.-Sept. 1900
10	To the Commissioner (2), vols. 1-2	May 1897-Mar. 1899
11	Re the Cimarron Agency (3), 1 vol. Re the Jicarilla Agency (5), 1 vol. Re the 10th Decennial Census (6), 1 vol.	Oct. 1876-Nov. 1879 July 1882-Apr. 1883 Nov. 1880-July 1881
12	Re the Abiquiu Agency (4)	Sept. 1878-Sept. 1880
13	Re the Jicarilla Subagency (7) vols. 1-2	July 1898-Aug. 1900
14	Re Day Schools (8), vols. 1-2	July 1898-Jan. 1899
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22	Do.	Jan. 1887-Dec. 1891
23	Do.	Jan. 1892-Dec. 1895
24	Do.	Jan. 1896-Dec. 1900
25	Register (13), 1 vol. Letters and Records (14)	Apr.-Oct. 1890, July- Aug. 1891 1894-1896
26	Do.	1896-1897
27	Do.	1897-1898
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